

PEACE THROUGH THE REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS

JULY 24, 1959.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. FULBRIGHT, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. Con. Res. 48]

The Committee on Foreign Relations, having had under consideration a concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 48) to promote peace through the reduction of armaments, report Senate Concurrent Resolution 48 favorably to the Senate and recommend that it pass.

PURPOSE

Senate Concurrent Resolution 48 resolves that the Congress—

reaffirm that upon the achievement of an agreement on the reduction of armaments, the United States is prepared to join with other signatories of the agreement to devote a substantial portion of any resultant savings to expand its works of peace throughout the world.

The resolution also reaffirms the belief of the Congress—

that the participating governments should continue and expand the works of peace, such as economic and technical assistance to less developed countries; development of natural resources; international cooperation to combat hunger and disease; scientific, cultural, and educational exchange programs; development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes; and the construction of new schools, universities, hospitals, and other essential facilities.

And, lastly, Senate Concurrent Resolution 48 provides that copies of the resolution shall—

be transmitted to the President of the United States and the Secretary of State, and that the President make known the sense of the resolution to the heads of all member governments of the United Nations.

BACKGROUND

On October 24, 1950, President Truman stated that—

If real disarmament were achieved, the nations of the world, acting through the United Nations, could join in a greatly enlarged program of mutual aid. As the cost of maintaining armaments decreased, every nation could greatly increase its contributions to advancing human welfare * * *. Then man can turn his great inventiveness, his tremendous energies, and the resources with which he has been blessed to creative efforts.

This goal was also made clear by President Eisenhower, who, on April 16, 1953, pledged that the U.S. Government was—

ready to ask its peoples to join with all nations in devoting a substantial percentage of the savings achieved by disarmament to a fund for world aid and reconstruction.

This goal has also received Senate endorsement at various times, most recently in 1953 and 1956. On July 29, 1953, the Senate agreed to Resolution 150, favoring an international agreement on the reduction of armaments—

to the end that a greater proportion of the world's productive capacity may be used for the well-being of mankind.

Another resolution (S. Res. 71) calling for an exploration of—

the possibilities of limiting the proportion of every nation's resources devoted to military purposes * * * so as to increase steadily the proportion devoted to improving the living levels of the people—

was agreed to by the Senate on July 28, 1955.

COMMITTEE ACTION

The Committee on Foreign Relations, on July 23, 1959, considered Senate Concurrent Resolution 48 in executive session and ordered it favorably reported to the Senate. The State Department had no objection to the resolution, stating that it is—

consistent with U.S. policy which calls for funds made available as a result of comprehensive disarmament to be devoted in part to the improvement of living conditions through the world and especially in less-developed countries.

As has been noted, the U.S. policy expressed in Senate Concurrent Resolution 48 is not new. However, the committee believes it desirable for the Congress to state this aim again so that there can be no doubt whatsoever that this country continues prepared to devote to works of world peace a substantial portion of any savings which result through an agreement on the reduction of armaments. For that reason, Senate approval of the pending resolution is recommended.